

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7241

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAD, PK,

SUBJECT: CCC VEGOIL FOR PAKISTAN

REFERENCE: AG ATTACHE'S TOFAS 104 OF 8/17/76

1. THIS IS A FOLLOW-UP TO AGATT'S TOFAS 104 ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. ON JULY 9, AGATT RECEIVED MESSAGE (FASTO 73) FROM USDA POINTING OUT (A) FY/77 CCC BUDGET TO BE EXTREMELY TIGHT; --B) LIMITED AMOUNT OF UNUSED FUNDS AVAILABLE IN TRANSITIONAL QUARTER; AND (C) THAT IF GOP INTERESTED IN PURSUING ADDITIONAL LINE OF CREDIT FOR WHEAT, VEGOIL, AND/OR TALLOW, THEN IT SHOULD FORWARD REQUEST ASAP FOR IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT ANY SUCH SHIPMENTS WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE BY ABSOLUTE DEADCSFE OF SEPTEMBER 15. THIS INFORMATION WAS TRANSMITTED TO GOP VIA AID MEMOIRE ON JULY 16. ON JULY 30, EMB RECEIVED LETTER FROM EAD SAYING GOP WAS REQUESTING QUOTE AS MUCH FUNDING FROM CCC CREDIT AS IS FEASIBLE UNQUOTE DURING GOP FY/77. WE REPLIED BY LETTER POINTING OUT THAT ANY FUNDS STILL AVAILABLE WERE ONLY REPEAT ONLY TRANSITIONAL QUARTER AND THAT GOP SHOULD THEREFORE MAKE QUICK DECISION IF THEY DESIRED APPLY. IN SPITE OF INQUIRIES, WE HEARD NOTHING MORE ON THIS UNTIL AUGUST 17 WHEN AGATT WAS TOLD BY EAD THAT PAK EMB/WASH WAS DISCUSSING MATTER WITH USDA. VALUE MENTIONED WAS \$20 MILLION. THIS

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PROMPTED AGATT'S TOFAS-104.

3. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE PAKISTAN MAKE MAXIMUM USE OF COMMERCIAL CREDIT BECAUSE IT WOULD HELP TO PROTECT THIS MARKET FROM FURTHER INROADS OF PALM OIL, WE SERIOUSLY DOUBT AS MUCH AS 40,000 TONS OF VEGOIL COULD BE BOUGHT AND SHIPPED BY SEPTEMBER 15 ESPECIALLY SINCE GOP NOW IN PROCESS OF BUYING 20,000 TONS PL-480 OIL FOR SEPTEMBER SHIPMENT. ON THE KARACHI END, IT WOULD MEAN ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF ANNUAL IMPORT NEEDS ARRIVING DURING ONE MONTH PERIOD. AGATT SOUNDED OUT IMPORTING AGENCY (PAKISTAN EDIBLE OIL CORPORATION) ON THIS POSSIBILITY AND SHIPPING MANAGER EXPRESSED DOUBT IT COULD HANDLE THESE QUANTITIES ARRIVING AT THE SAME TIME. ALSO HE CLAIMED NO KNOWLEDGE PAK EMB/WASH MOVE TOWARD CCC CREDIT.

4. SHORTLY AFTER ABOVE CONVERSATION, AGATT CONTACTED BY MINISTRY OF AGRARIAN MANAGEMENT (UNDER WHICH PEOC OPERATES). WAS TOLD THAT CHAIRMAN OF PEOC SAID HE COULD TAKE ENTIRE 40,000 TONS IF CREDIT LINE WAS APPROVED IMMEDIATELY, IF SHIPPING COULD BE FOUND, AND IF SHIPMENT PERIOD COULD BE EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 30. MAM SAID IT WAS AUTHORIZING CHAIRMAN TO GO AHEAD WITH PURCHASES AFTER NOTIFICATION RECEIVED THAT CREDIT LINE APPROVED. ALSO ALERTING BANKS TO MAKE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS.

5. IN LIGHT OF ALL THE ABOVE, IT APPEARS TO US GOP COULD PROBABLY USE ABOUT HALF \$20 MILLION REQUESTED IF SEPTEMBER 15 SHIPPING DATE DEADLINE REMAINS FIRM. BYROADE

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